

SACRED DANCE GUILD JOURNAL

SPRING 2010 VOLUME 52 NUMBER 2

Simply Soaring!



A SACRED DANCE FESTIVAL | JULY 26 – 31, 2010 CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

The 2010 Festival logo designed, by SDG member, Ruth Leiberherr shows dancers Soaring, Gliding, Flying, Swirling, Rising, Floating, Spiraling, Ascending and Surging. When we gather on the beautiful campus of Connecticut College, dancers of all abilities, genders, ethnicities, cultures, generations, backgrounds and faith journeys will take flight and soar. SDG is indeed soaring into the future. This is our 52nd year and the Sacred Dance Guild will continue to generate moments of awe. Join us as we strive to create a more compassionate and peaceful world. We challenge each one of you to encourage everyone in your dance community to attend "Simply Soaring," Festival 2010. Learn more about the Main Presenters in our first colored edition of the Journal.

SCHEDULE-IN-BRIEF: Day students can check in daily at the Festival office.

MONDAY, JULY 26

Simply Soaring Festival Registration
10:00 am - 6pm
Opening Celebration, Ecstatic Dance & more,
7pm – 11pm

TUESDAY, JULY 27

Soaring FOR the Divine
Classes 6:45 am - 4pm
Afternoon Panel Discussion
Evening Festival Concert featuring Workshop
Faculty, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Soaring TO the Divine
Classes 6:45 am - 4pm
Flash Mob Workshop
Aurora Borealis Festival Banquet
Annual Meeting, Circle Dances

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Soaring WITH the Divine
Classes 6:45 am - 4pm
Festival Bazaar, Flash Mob
Registration & Workshop Sharing,
Share What U Wear Fashion Show
Flash Mob Event Benefit for the Women's
Center of Southeastern Connecticut

FRIDAY, JULY 30

Soaring AS the Divine
Classes 6:45 am - 4pm
Afternoon Panel Discussion
Evening Faculty Concert & Post
Concert Reception

SATURDAY, JULY 31

Soaring ON as the Divine
Closing Celebration 9:30 – 11am
Optional Excursion to Jacob's Pillow

Remember to register before May 15 to receive the \$50 tuition discount. We encourage dance companies and dance ministries to ask about our group rates. Contact Wendy Morrell to register at Prog@sacreddanceguild.org

FESTIVAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Kamp
Prog2@sacreddanceguild.org

A Letter from Your President by JoyBeth Luffy



Welcome to your Sacred Dance Guild's 52nd Year! We're happy to still be here divinely dancing with YOU!

In order to make it through these tight economic times, we're having to "Green and Grow" our organization. We're thrilled that you are spinning and shaking with us as we dance through the necessary transitions that will help us to continue to serve our world through promoting, networking, educating, and resourcing Sacred Dance in all its forms.

Our Sacred Dance Festival **2010: SIMPLY SOARING** is shaping up to be an uplifting experience as we increase our abilities to soar for, soar to, soar with, and soar as the Divine.

You will find much information about Simply Soaring both in this Journal issue and on our website www.sacreddanceguild.org. We hope that you will come dance with us and experience this year's selection of Sacred Dance teachers, styles, paths, and traditions. Our Ecstatic Dance, our Circle Dance, our Sharing Dances, our Concert Dances, our Aurora's Awakening Daily Dances, and our Flash Mob Dance will surely have you soaring in delight.

Please let us know if you would like to help us spread our SDGO Benefit Concerts worldwide. And be sure to tune into what's happening with the piloting of our first "SDG Traveling Workshops" in Ottawa Canada in May, the organizing of our "SDG Presenters Package," and our Sacred Dance Journeys. Yes, we are expanding our programming and want you to be a part of it.

As we expand our programs, we are streamlining our organizational systems to catch up with both modern technology and the diminishing amount of volunteers available to do SDG's everyday work. We couldn't do what we do if it weren't for the services we pay for through our Management Company, www.nextwavegroup.com. We are still trying to find the right combination of Volunteer Board Members to do the actual work of SDG and hope that you will consider volunteering in whatever way you can. Contact VP@sacreddanceguild.org.

In growing and greening SDG, we have put both our Membership Directory and Journal, as well as many of our membership letters, online. Your Online Membership Directory will be printable in several different forms by you. By going online, we are able to have a color Journal that you will be able to print out for years to come. Since this is our last printed and postal mailed Journal, please join us in dancing a huge Thank You to our volunteer Journal Editor of many, many years, Toni Intravaia. The "good old fashion way" to publish our Journal took enormous work hours for each and every issue and Toni was always there to get the job done...

Please check out our website often at www.sacreddanceguild.org. We keep adding ways for us all to interconnect and reach out to one another. Help us to grow our Resource Library, Event Calendar, and Sacred Dance Quotes Section. Send us your Sacred Dance Group or Troupes picture so we can put it in our Update section for all to see that we're dancing the sacred all over this planet. Advertise your Sacred Dance service as a teacher, author, troupe, organization, and business in our new online SDG Business Directory. Dialogue with us about Sacred Dance with all its aspects in our new Dialogues section. Send us suggestions through our expanded Support pages.

Go online and update your Member Profile with your latest e-mail address so we can send you all your SDG goodies, such as your Journal and E-Board Newsletter. We also invite you, once there, to download a picture of yourself and link your website to ours. If you, as a sacred dancer, make the news please send us your news article for our Headlines section. We are also posting online all Chapter/Region newsletters and events, so be sure to e-mail them to us.

Communicate with us. Let us know about others who are Divinely Dancing. Help us to share globally the love and light of Sacred Dance. **And most of all come dance the sacred with us...**

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The **JOURNAL** is the official publication of the Sacred Dance Guild, a non-profit international corporation, founded in 1958, and providing members with information and opportunities for enriching their faith through movement and dance. Reprints of articles in the JOURNAL are by permission of the Editor only. The Directory is intended only for the use of Guild members in carrying out the activities and purposes of the Guild.

Policy Statement: The Sacred Dance Guild recommends and encourages its members to list their SDG affiliation when presenting workshops and performances. However, the Guild letterhead, logo and name are to be used only in connection with official Guild business and activities, as endorsed by a Chapter Board, Regional Director or Guild Executive Board. Official address: Sacred Dance Guild, 550 Ritchie Highway, #271, Severna Park, MD 21146.

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Corporate subscriptions to the JOURNAL are available for \$35. Membership to the Sacred Dance Guild is also available for the following rates: One-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$50; Two-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$80; One-Year Student and Senior (65+) Membership \$35; One-Year Group Membership \$90 and Life Membership \$1000. For Non-Members, the JOURNAL is \$35 per year.

Members receive:

- Online Sacred Dance Guild Journal published twice a year
- Online Membership Directory with geographical and leadership listings printed
- Calendar of Events published in the Journal and online with regional, national, and international activities
- Membership in Chapter or Region with local events and activities
- Reduced fees at the International Festival held annually in different locations within the United States
- Reduced fees at Guild workshops and those of reciprocal organizations
- Opportunity to be listed as a resource in the Online Resource Database
- Ability to sign up for email reminders for events listed on SDG Event Calendars

Subscription and membership orders should go to:
**Sacred Dance Guild, 550 Ritchie Highway, #271
Severna Park, MD 21146.**

Deadlines for the **JOURNAL**: September 15 and March 15. Deadlines for the Events Calendar are the same as for the Journal. Articles accepted with 500 words or less.

Chapter/Region/membership news, letters and black and white/color photographs should be sent by deadline dates to: journal@sacreddanceguild.org



All comes around from where it started. This is my last letter to you as Editor. It is interesting to note that we will be having two Journal Coordinators plus the President for the future editions of the Sacred Dance Guild Journal. That is the way it was back in the fifties and sixties, but we had only one coordinator (called editor for each issue). Of course, now the Journal will be most exciting in color and available on the SDG website. Over the years (38) as volunteer editor, I have purchased three typewriters, two computers and had two books printed (Volumes II and III). I have loved every minute and every cent spent. I will continue as "Historic Writer" bringing to you views and news from past years.

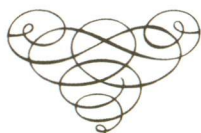
Historic Notes by Toní Intravaia From the Sacred Dance Guild Newsletter, May 1958

Ted Shawn says: "the duty of the artist is to shed light into the darkness of men's souls. Feel always that a charge is laid upon you—to send your audience away uplifted, joyous, stimulated to create, given courage to face burdens daily. And you cannot express in movement anything greater or finer than you yourself are. First BE and then DO. Say, when you dance with Zarathustra: Now there danceth a god in me."

Theodore Parker: "Let our doctrines and our forms fit the soul, as the limbs fit the body—growing out of it, growing with it. Let us have a church for the whole man."

Erika Thimmey says, "Since in our dance the body is the instrument of the soul, I have sought to create a new form of worship through the art of the body in motion. It is my intention that this worship be not merely for the personal gratification of the performer, but that it serve mankind by bringing a sincerely religious experience to the congregations that behold it. 'Know ye not that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, glorify, therefore, God in your bodies and your spirits which are God's.'"

I Corinthians 6:19-20.



{ Our Board Minutes are now available in our Members Only Website Section }
by clicking on Meeting Minutes. Web site: www.sacreddanceguild.org.

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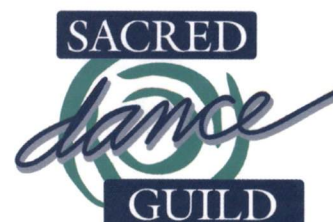
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Ruth Leiberherr, Lisa Michaels, Betsy O'Neill,
Pamela White, Elaine Herg Sisler, Katherine Harts,
Festival 2010 Team

Design: Betsy Earley of Bay Media, Inc.

For the future, SDG Members without
computers may request a printed copy of the
Journal to be mailed to them.





PRAYING WITH YOUR WHOLE BEING

by JoyBeth Lufty

In the last issue of our Sacred Dance Guild Journal, I introduced Body Prayer as a form of Sacred Dance that helps us to express ourselves more fully by using our body together with our voice or inner thought to move into direct connection with The Divine.

Dance is our oldest form of prayer known and every religious and spiritual tradition has had Body Prayer as part of its learnable practices.

In the Buddhist tradition, the repetitive movement, rhythm, and meditation of this particular Body Prayer has served for many centuries to increase COMPASSION here on Earth. It can be practiced standing in a circle for groups or simply standing on your own as an individual.

JoyBeth is an author, dancer, teacher, and an interfaith minister. She has been a faculty member at our Festivals, also serving SDG by being on its Board of Directors. www.soulintegrators.com

The chant used is:

Om Mane Padme Hum Om Mane Padme Hum

Om Mane Padme Hum...

Chant this phrase with your hands cupped in front of your heart, as if holding a jeweled lotus blossom. Walk slowly and lightly in a circle with one step forward for each repetition. As you chant and move, call on the Buddha's wisdom, compassion, and clear mind to guide you. Concentrate on purifying your heart, your being, and releasing your blocks and negativities.

Give thanks for the jewel in the lotus that is within you that moves as the purity of your essence...



SDG Festival 2010 Logo Reflection

"Simply Soaring"

by Ruth Leiberherr



Creating the logo for SDG Festival 2010 "Simply Soaring" involved a process exploring many different ideas. It led to an unexpected and serendipitous ending.

After conversations with festival directors, Mary Kamp and Wendy Morrell, I sketched dancers, wings, feathers and a combination of the three. I tried to express the essence of "Simply Soaring" in a simple, striking image. Nothing seemed to quite capture it. Suddenly I looked at my mural size painting "Jazz Improvisation" and felt that the figures movements and colors embodied the essence of "Soaring"! Focusing on an area of the large painting showing five figures soaring, I played with cropping and contrast enhancing—and the logo for "Simply Soaring" was born!

I am an artist, illustrator, dancer and yoga teacher. For over 20 years I have been a member of the liturgical dance group Skyloom in Lexington, Massachusetts. Movement and dance have found expression in my paintings. My paintings have influenced my dancing, sometimes in subtle ways and sometimes quite literally, when Skyloom and other choreographers have used my paintings as the inspiration for a dance.

Thank you Mary and Wendy for challenging me with the task of creating the logo and also for your valuable input.





Dancing Your Body Temple

by Lisa Michaels

A temple is a structure reserved for spiritual activities; such as prayer and the worship of a divinity. Often seen as the dwelling place of the Divine, a temple provides sacred containment for reverence, devotion, and connecting one's soul to Spirit.

The body is often referred to as a holy vessel or a temple. Understanding and aligning with Spirit within your body temple can provide you with a clear and direct inner path to the Divine. Hidden among the layers of skin, muscle, blood, and bone resides the creational glue of the universe.

Comprised of the fundamental forces—Earth, Water, Air, Fire, and Spirit—your body provides you with a portal to the core essence of creation. The rich matter that make up your cells flow in harmony with the universe when you honor the forces of the Divine within and dance in time to the rhythmic pulse of cosmos. As an outer world temple becomes enlivened by the prayers of the people within its walls, so too the Divine within responds to your devotion, reverence, and activation. By dancing your body as you pray to the sacred musical pulse found in the rhythm of the sun, moon, and stars, as well as, your beating heart; you enliven the forces of creation that live inside your body temple.

With rhythmic movement you activate your: 1) Physical container. 2) Watery emotional energy. 3) Mental air realm. 4) Fiery life force. 5) Spiritual soul essence expression. When these elements in your body move to the tempo of music, you literally dance your prayers into being.

Without movement and the fiery energy it creates, the physical body temple becomes stagnant and lacks life force. Dance provides an exceptional tool for igniting life force, generating energy and activating your prayers.

In some cultures, the regulation of dance has been used as a means to control. When people's movement is very limited, their ways of thinking, their life force, power, and ability to connect to the Divine directly becomes restricted.

If you want to free your thinking, increase your creativity, free a block in your life, or fully enliven your prayers, you literally need to move in new ways. Finding new movements shifts your energy. For this reason, dance has been used to free overly tight constraints around the physical body, or the way



people perceive the world, and bring in new levels of perception.

Dancing your body temple gives you a powerful tool for moving deep issues and energies. Dancing to strongly percussive music with few or no words serves this purpose very effectively. Shamans use the ancient tools of ritual drumming and dance for connecting to the Divine, transforming energy, spiritual journeying, and achieving trance states.

Riding the rhythmic musical wave while dancing moves you into a trance state allowing access to inner realms and awareness not found in your ordinary reality.

Dance can be used for increasing personal expression, opening to creative insight, connecting to the Divine within, and accessing deep levels of soul transformation.

From the beating of your own heart drum to the rising and setting of the sun, nature's elemental forces of creation provide the rhythmic pulse for your sacred dance of life. Dancing your prayers into being and enlivening your life force as you honor the Divine within, forms an entry point for the forces of creation to assist you in bringing grace into every area of your life.

*Lisa Michaels, author, dancer, facilitator, and founder of the Natural Rhythms Institute, assists others in accessing their ability to learn from nature and to discover more about their essence expression. For the past twenty years she has shared her expertise through her products, workshops, and facilitator trainings. Lisa's current products include her new book **Natural Rhythms, the Priestess Within, The Elemental Forces of Creation Oracle and Audio Book**. Her work has helped thousands of people find the key to moving their lives forward, thus enlivening their ability to co-create and unlock their natural growth potential. Lisa will be presenting a workshop at our Simply Soaring Festival.*

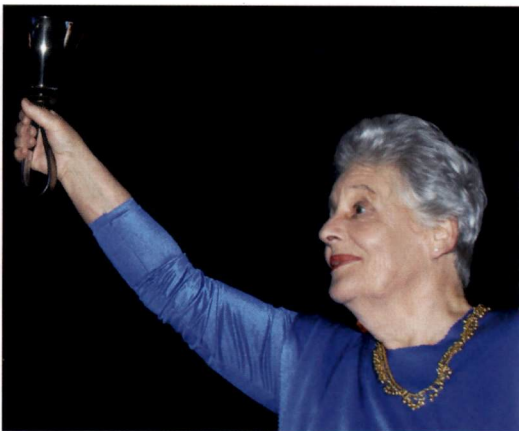
Lisa Michaels • Founding Director Natural Rhythms Institute • 770.823.8718

Email: lisamichaels@naturalrhythms.org

Photos by Sara Guevara.




Top: Dancers, Dogs, and Babies
Right: Skyloom's Sybille Volz "Go now in Peace"
Lower Left: CultureFest Saturday Workshop Participants
Lower Right: CultureFest Circle Dance
Bottom: Concert Finale



Sacred Dance Gives the Sole

A Joyous Sacred Dance Flash Mob Benefit
for the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut

Thursday July 29, 2010 • 7:30 p.m.
The Pier • New London, Connecticut
Rain or Shine. (Bring a poncho) All Are Welcome.

DANCE. CELEBRATE. BE TRANSFORMED AND CHANGE THE WORLD.

Leader and choreographer: Marylee Hardenbergh
Marylee is the founder of Global Site Performance
(See her astounding work at: www.globalsiteperformance.org)
Marylee will offer two workshops to teach the easy-to-learn movements
for our mob dance (specific times to be announced):
Wednesday, July 28 (for Festival participants only)
Thursday, July 29 (open to all mob dance registrants)
Participation Cost: \$10 and a pair of shoes for women, girls, or boys
(Festival attendees do not pay the \$10)

*Shoes and half of the proceeds will go to benefit the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut.
The remaining proceeds will go to support the work of Sacred Dance Guild.*



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"Simply Soaring" FESTIVAL 2010 Major Presenters



Swirling and Soaring in the Spirit of Luminaries • Kathy Harty Gray

Come join us as we:

- Share the essence and spirit of modern dance legends Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman and Jose Limon.
- Learn the vocabulary of movement developed in the 20th century to train dancers to portray humanistic emotions.
- Experience stage patterns for large ensemble movements that arc and twist and fill the stage with power and passion.
- Embrace the past and swirl and soar into the future with these special gifts.

Kathy Harty Gray, Artistic Director & Choreographer of Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre since 1978, is a graduate of The Juilliard School, and holds a MEd from the University of Virginia. She studied with Martha Graham, Charles Weidman, Jose Limon, Anna Sokolow and Antony Tudor. Her extensive performances span a 30-year career of teaching, choreographing and producing at studios, universities and festivals. She is presently adjunct faculty and company-in-residence at Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus since 1995.

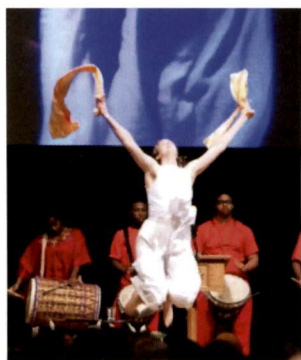


The Sky's the Limit • Kathryn Mihelick and Andrea Shearer

Each day we will lead you through a series of movement experiences to soar from:

- Low points to new heights in spirit and body awareness/self-discovery and worship.
- Pain to Peace, working through life's disappointments to a realization of God's gifts.
- Isolation to Interrelation, experiencing the sorrow of exclusion and the joy of inclusion.
- Confrontation to Community, from the hurt of divisiveness to the warmth of unity.
- Restraint to Freedom, going beyond mind and voice to fully embodied praise and prayer.
- The sky itself, where we'll create a dance or two to take home with us.

Kathryn Mihelick, Founder/Director of Leaven Dance Company, was Asst. Professor and former Coordinator of the Dance Division at Kent State University. A scholar of sacred/liturgical dance, she has performed, lectured, and presented workshops nationally and internationally in Australia, Europe, and Asia. **Andrea Shearer**, Associate Director of Leaven Dance Company, is an Associate Professor and Dance Division Director at Kent State University. Andrea has taught, choreographed, and performed across the U.S. including National Sacred Dance Guild Festivals, American College Dance Festivals, and the Religious Education Congress.



Flying Lessons! • Kathryn Sparks

Where does the dance begin? This class cultivates the inner landscape of the dance by:

- Bridging the natural impulse of the dance with the interpretive lens.
- Exploring dance as a healing force and a spiritual journey.
- Listening to the rhythms of our being that shape the form of our dances.
- Grounding, letting go and surrendering inform prayers, chants and scripture that enliven and deepen our relationship with the Divine.
- Drawing upon a number of exercises and tools that integrate body and spirit such as reflection and journaling.

Kathryn Sparks is a dancer, choreographer and teacher. For the past 15 years she has focused on sacred and liturgical dance, honing a number of tools for using dance creatively in worship. Her interest in body-spirit integration has led her on a path to healing her own "splits" and a deeper trust of body wisdom. Kathryn has danced and taught at the local, regional and national levels of the church and has pioneered the workshop and year round dance offerings for Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. She holds degrees in dance and theology and is a longtime member of the Sacred Dance Guild.

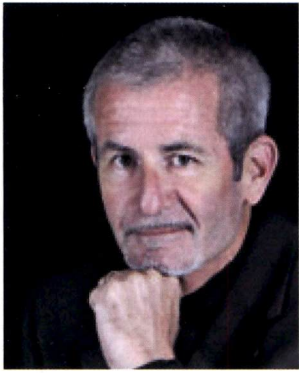


Wings for Making Dances: Flight Patterns for Exciting Heights of Composition • Phyllis Stonebrook

With good understanding of the basic tools for choreography, dancers will find the work of dance composition easier to do, more meaningful, and delightfully gratifying as they:

- Explore fundamental uses of time, space, and energy, with thematic material.
- Choose music or spoken selections to create a short solo piece.
- Learn to expand a solo work into a group dance.
- Simply soar on to be stronger choreographers, dancers, and observers.

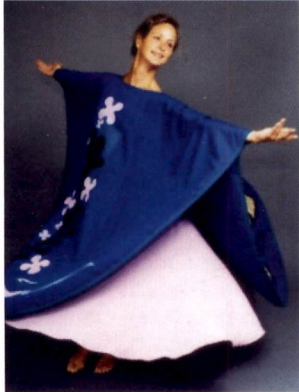
Phyllis Stonebrook minored in dance at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, studied at the Martha Graham School in New York, and worked with Louis Horst in composition. She danced with Ethel Butler, Pola Nirenska, and Erika Thimey in Washington, D.C., and in Seattle, WA. She also directed her own studios and companies. Vice President of SDG for three years, and faculty coordinator for the Guild's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2008, Phyllis directs the Baltimore North Cluster of Churches Dance Choir, works with the Youth Group at North Chevy Chase Christian Church, and choreographs for and dances with Five Dancing, based in Columbia, MD.



"Mysteries, Rites, and Revelations" A Spectrum of Transcendent Dance Expressions • David Taylor

Mysteries, Rites, and Revelations will explore a number of transcendent dance forms stemming from a variety of religious and cultural traditions throughout history. Through PowerPoint presentations, film, and movement labs, Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble Artistic Director David Taylor will guide students through a study of the Sufi Mevlevi Whirling Dervishes, a variety of Gurdjieff sacred movements, including a two-thousand year old Assyrian Women's Mourning Dance, and the Balinese Sang Hyang Dedari trance dances.

David Taylor served as the founder, principal choreographer and Artistic Director of the David Taylor Dance Theatre, a Denver-based professional contemporary ballet company, for twenty-seven years. Currently a dance history professor at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, David is also a ballet master class teacher for numerous dance organizations throughout the state. His extensive background also includes a longtime involvement with metaphysical studies, sacred dance and ritual and besides conducting sacred dance lectures and workshops for many statewide organizations, in the summer of 2009 he founded Colorado's first professional sacred dance group, the Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble.



Soaring Through Embodiment of the Spirit! • Jane Wellford

How do we reflect, reveal and communicate with the Holy through our Body? This daily 2-hour workshop is divided into 4 classes giving tools and practice toward the goal of embodying the Spirit. Topics to be covered include:

- A brief history and terminology of sacred dance in different faith practices.
- Learning the language of movement vocabulary and basic dance technique for sacred dance.
- Warm-up, learning dances of prayers, scripture passages/sacred texts, hymns, processions and parables.
- The basics of choreography, planning, and rehearsing.
- Working with musicians, readers, props and costumes.

Beginners will feel comfortable. Experienced dancers will have opportunities for challenge. All will create meaningful and articulate movement phrases and dances.

Jane Wellford, Associate Professor of Performing Arts at Elon University, teaches Dance History, Dance Improvisation, Sacred Dance, and Dance & Gender. Jane received her BA in Theatre from St. Andrew's Presbyterian College and her MFA in Dance from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is the founder and director of Moving Liturgy, a professional liturgical dance ensemble, based in Burlington, NC. Moving Liturgy has performed throughout the United States, offering a repertory of 250 works to hundreds of churches, arts and religion festivals, and national conferences for over 22 years.

For more information on our fabulous presenters, please check our website.

Skyloom Dancers and the World Day of Prayer

by Shirley Blancke

On Friday, March 5, 2010, Skyloom participated in a World Day of Prayer service, written by the women of Cameroon, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, Massachusetts. Wearing brightly colored West African cloths as skirts, and colored scarves wound around our heads, we processed in with maracas, jumping, waving our arms, and weaving to the energetic drum beat of the song. Later, our sermon dance recreated women at the market with baskets, or water jug on head, who put down their wares for a digging and sowing line dance interspersed with joyous praises to the Lord around the altar, all to a celebration song for the New Year. We processed out at the end of the service as we had come in, and were later told by a member of the congregation that we were "the sunshine of the service."

On every first Friday in March, the World Day of Prayer, started by Church Women United with liturgies written by women from different countries, is now celebrated around the world in churches of different denominations. Over the years, Skyloom has felt honored to be invited to participate in these services in churches in Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts. It has given us an opportunity to research ethnic dance styles, and we have always tried to find appropriate music from the country or area represented to add vitality and color to the celebration. This year we found some Cameroonian dance on Nigerian television. While we do not attempt to copy actual dances, we hope to give a feeling of the style through our own choreographed pieces. One year we were particularly touched when two Cambodian ladies came up to us with tears in their eyes saying, "How did you know how to dance like Cambodians?"

We feel this event is a great opportunity for sacred dancers, and if you want to find out about next year's program, check www.worlddayofprayer.net. Then you would need to persuade a church to hold this if you do not know of one that already does.

In our communities the churches take turns, and some have dropped out because of the morning week-day time, but we have danced this service in the evening too. Our knowledge that this celebration is being held around the world with the rotation of the sun brings home to us its unifying purpose in a very special way.

Shirley Blancke is an archaeologist engaged in identifying and computer cataloguing Native American artifacts in Concord, Massachusetts. She became interested in sacred dance through her friendship with a Wampanoag medicine man who saw sacred dance as fundamental to his efforts to rebuild the Native American community by sponsoring pow-wows in Massachusetts.

At that time she met the Skyloom group, and has been a member of it and the Sacred Dance Guild for over 25 years, coming back to dance in middle age after taking ballet as a child and winning a silver cup for ballroom dance as a teen.

Skyloom Dancers Photo from left to right:

Shirley Blancke, Ruth Lieberherr, Sybille Volz, Wendy Linares, Elaine Sisler



Simply Soaring!

Sacred Dance Guild Festival 2010 - Jacob's Pillow Excursion Saturday, July 31, 2010

In June 1958, the Sacred Dance Guild's first summer festival was held at Jacob's Pillow under the direction of Ted Shawn himself. The success of that event resulted in Jacob's Pillow continuing to host the Sacred Dance Guild's summer event for another three years with such teachers as Ted Shawn, Ruth St. Denis, Mary Anthony, Jess Meeker, Myra Kinch, Josephine Rice, Forrest Coggan, Naomi Aleh-Leaf and many others.

In addition to being the birthplace of our Sacred Dance Guild summer festivals, "The Pillow" has a fascinating history. It is the longest running dance festival in the United States and is an incomparable center for dance that exists nowhere else in the world. With a pioneering spirit and commitment to innovation, the Pillow has become a mecca for dancers everywhere.

See details at www.jacobspillow.org.

The History!

Jacob's Pillow holds a special appeal for dancers, historians and the public in general. Only dance institution to be designated a National Historic Landmark

- ❖ The Ted Shawn Theatre is the first theatre built for Dance in the United States.
- ❖ Dedicated site on the African American Heritage Trail
- ❖ Station on the Underground Railroad



The Place!

The grounds and gardens are reason enough to visit.



- ❖ Gardens throughout the grounds
- ❖ 163 acres of natural land
- ❖ Fantastic views of the Berkshires



- ❖ The Pillow Café, the Pillow Pub, the Tea Garden, the Ice Cream Bar, the "Inside/Outside" stage, Blake's Barn, the Ted Shawn Theatre, the Doris Duke Theatre.....



The Excursion!

- ❖ Leaves Connecticut College at noon, with boxed lunches in hand, for a 2-hour tour (via Motor Coach) through the incredible countryside between New London, CT and Becket, MA with Sacred Dance Guild Festivals and other videos to steep us in history during the ride.
- ❖ Has a personalized, leisurely exploration of the many great spaces at "The Pillow"
 - Includes time to observe students and watch rehearsals at the Pillow.
- ❖ Includes a special talk/time in the Pillow Archives & Exhibit area in Blake's Barn
- ❖ Enjoys the "Inside/Outside" performance
- ❖ Chooses from a number of tempting options for a group picnic on the grounds
- ❖ Ends our day at the Pillow in the unique Ted Shawn Theatre to see Compañía Nacional de Danza 2 (CND2). Based in Madrid and rarely seen in the U.S., superbly trained contemporary ballet dancers performing "dramatic, visually stunning works". The program includes the U.S. premiere of *Insected* by co-artistic director Tony Fabre; and two works by founder Nacho Duato, acclaimed for his "fluid musicality and inventive classicism" *Kol Nidre*, an introspective, spiritual work, and *Gnawa*, a rousing celebration of Mediterranean dance and music.
- ❖ Boards the Coach for a relaxing and reflective return trip for a last night at Connecticut College.



The Price!

- ❖ **Enjoy this special experience for just \$125.00!**
- ❖ Accommodation/breakfast at Connecticut College for July 31, 2010 is an additional \$35.25 to be booked in advance but payable to the College on site.

Book the Excursion!

- ❖ Register early for this excursion! Book on line at www.sacreddanceguild.org.
- ❖ Contact Wendy Morrell at 613-726-1375 or e-mail SDGFestival@sacreddanceguild.org for details/questions.

"I believe that dance communicates man's deepest, highest and most truly spiritual thoughts and emotions far better than words, spoken or written."
Ted Shawn, Jacob's Pillow Founder

Dance Vespers of All Franciscan Saints

by Betsy O'Neill



On November 21, 2009 members of the SDG NY/SW CT Chapter participated in a dance vespers service to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order. This "Dance Vespers of All Franciscan Saints" took place at All Saints Church in Harlem, New York City.

SDG member Betsy O'Neill and her former pastor, Rev. Neil O'Connell OFM, coordinated this vespers service. The idea for this service grew out of a similar event, a Thanksgiving Dance Vespers Service in November 2008, celebrating the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese of New York, which was also coordinated by Betsy and Father Neil.

The fifteen ministers of dance included both SDG members and non-members. In part, this was an effort to increase awareness of SDG and to promote new memberships. Another goal was to promote community among sacred dancers by praying, creating, and dancing together.

The traditional form of a Catholic vespers service was followed. Father Neil presided. Sister Chala Marie Hill of the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary was the reflector and Sister Paul Teresa Hennessee of the Franciscan Society of the Atonement read.

In the opening procession the dance ministers carried evocations of the four traditional elements of nature: blue scarves for air, water sprinkled from a ceramic vessel for water, red streamers for fire and a large globe for earth.

Psalms 141 "Incense Prayer" (choreography by Mary Kasakove) was danced as Father Neil offered incense. Betsy led the congregation in sacred gesture for the refrain of Psalm 24 "O God, this is the people that long to see your face..."

As a response to the Gospel, the dance ministers danced the Prayer of Saint Francis "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (choreography by Linda Telesco). Most of the service was danced choreography by Betsy with contributions from the other participating dancers. In addition to Betsy and Mary, dance ministers included Jean Ando, Sister Ona Bessette, L'Ana Burton, Barbara Fahringer and Wesley Yarbor.

The New Evangelization Network, a recently inaugurated Catholic cable network videotaped the vespers. The service may be viewed on our SDG website (click on "Headlines" and then on "Franciscans Celebrate 800th Anniversary").

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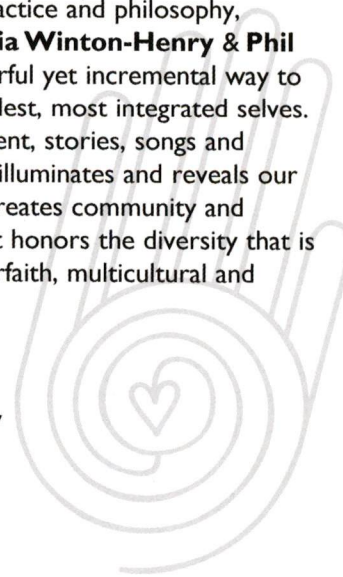
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so rich in our world. InterPlay is interfaith, multicultural and intergenerational.

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DID YOU KNOW?

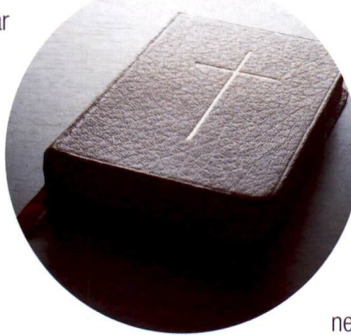
by Pamela White

The first time the term “dance” appears in the Bible is in Judges 21:21 And see, and behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come you out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

But did you also know that the literal translation of the term “dance” in that verse comes from a root verb meaning “to twist” or “to whirl” and the term “dances” comes from a root word that means “in a circular or spiral manner”? So actually, we could more literally translate the verse as come out to whirl in circles (or spirals).

Imagine how much information could be gained about the history of dancing if the term “dance” was translated more literally!

There are eight different Hebrew and Greek terms that are all translated collectively as “dance,” “danced,” and “dancing” and yet, each one really is unique, revealing style, technique and type of movement. For example, in Job 21:11 which is translated in the King James Version as They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance, the literal translation of the word “dance” is from a Hebrew root verb meaning “to stamp” or “to spring about.” Interesting, eh?



The familiar third verse of Psalm 149 could more appropriately be translated as Let them praise his name in the round dance: let them sing praises to him with the tambourine and the harp. And when all the Israelites escape from Egypt, one could legitimately translate Exodus 15:30 as Then

Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and a dance company of women followed her with tambourines.

When David danced before the Lord, we know that he literally was bending from the knee. And in 1 Samuel 30:15, the Amalekites were literally “moving in a circle”. When we finally arrive at the New Testament, the round dance is the norm. The Greek term for dance in Matthew 11:17 could be translated literally as We piped for you, but you didn’t move in a ring with repeated motion.

Similarly, Luke 15:25 could be translated as When he came near the house, he heard music and round dancing. So keep in mind, especially when reading English translations from other languages, the term “dance” might be hiding more information that you realize!

Hey Kids...Let's Put On A Show! The Birth of CultureFest

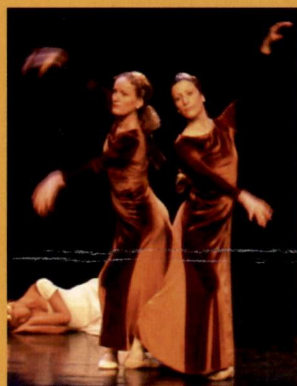
by Elaine Herg Sisler

It all started when Karen Josephson said, “Gather a group of your dancer friends and put on a show!”

I wonder how many of you remember the old TV show “Spanky & Our Gang”? This rag-tag group of mischievous kids always had fun and adventure preparing for a show of some sort or another. They inspired me to do the same since childhood with front porch productions, family picnic presentations, school shows, Skyloom sacred dances and Encore Dance Ensemble.

Within minutes following our board meeting last winter in North Carolina, I was brainstorming with my fellow SDG board members to create a pilot program for SD-GO, our first global initiative. Thus CultureFest was born.

Join me at Festival 2010 for my “CultureFest Revisited” workshop and simply soar into the reality of creating your own SD-GO show in your home area. Come on gang and dance with me as we brainstorm possibilities for more SD-GO programs!



“Simply Soaring” FESTIVAL 2010 Morning Awakenings

Fueling the Flight—Taking Care of the Temple!

Prepare for Takeoff

Diana Burton

Sitting Chair Exercises

Betsy O'Neill

Temple in Action

Cynthia Thomas-Rustin

“Simply Soaring” FESTIVAL 2010 Technique Classes

Preparing for Liftoff!

Soaring In & Beyond Technique

L'Ana Burton

The NIA Technique Dance Arts / Moving Arts / Healing Arts

Lisa Howard

Soaring from Within

Connecting Breath, Bone, Muscle and Soul

Natasha Royka


Rising to New Heights

Wesley Yarbor

Embodying the Journey: A Lenten Worship

by Katharine Harts

(Pacific School of Religion Masters of Divinity)



Every Sunday during the Lenten season, worshippers at the First Congregational Church in Berkeley, California, found themselves praying with their bodies, not words. I led a series of services that emphasized the sacredness of the body and how awareness of the physical realm can enhance one's spiritual life.

As Christians, we're called to action in ritual. We're called to be movers and shakers, cultural transformers—and that's an embodied thing. We have a creative and wonderful God, and worshiping through movement helps us possess the good news of gospel through the whole body.

It is always worthwhile to express oneself through dance or breath, but the Lenten season provides an important reminder of the biblical importance of the body—both its joys and pain. There is the beauty and wonder of our bodies and the horror of what can happen to them, whether that's an injury or cancer or a head cold. During this time of the year we walk toward suffering and tap into our own place of suffering with Christ.

People are always trying to escape what the body is feeling, but I find God in the center of that. You have a creator who loves you, flesh and blood, no matter what kind of shape you are in. You can say:

"Here I am, a body like no other."

"Simply Soaring" FESTIVAL 2010 Workshop Presenters

Me and God/Put your Hand in the Hand
Choreography to Go • Suzanne (Suzi) Bevan

Come Soar with the Eagles!
Choreography to Go • Gail Conway

Healing Music and Breath –
The Spirit of Shakuhachi – Zen Breathing Technique
Debbie Danbrook

Freedom Behind Bars!
Dance as Living Sculpture • Carla DeSola

Uplifted!! • Mulenga Patricia Katyoka

Soaring Voices
Freeing the Dancer's Voice in Performance, Teaching, and Everyday Life
Pamala Lewis

Dance of Divine Grace • Lisa Michaels

Soaring! Doris Humphrey's Technique & Choreography
Sally Hanger Morovitz

Let the Allelulias Ascend
Josephine Nicholson and Sharon Werth of the Erika Thimey Dance Company

CultureFest Revisited – Dancing Divine Diversity • Elaine Herg Sisler

Flash Mob! • Marylee Hardenbergh



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CHAPTER NEWS NY/SW CT

The Chapter held their Annual Meeting and Workshop **"Moving into Spring: Renewal and Celebration"** on April 25th. Workshop presenters were Martha Chapman, Meghan McAlpine and Victor Charles. Chapter member, Nada Khodiova, is presenting a monthly workshop on Women's Ritual Dance.

Members of the Chapter will present The Prayer of St. Francis at the Festival in July.

Remember to go online
www.sacreddanceguild.org and update
your Member Profile with your latest
e-mail address, your picture and your
personal website link...



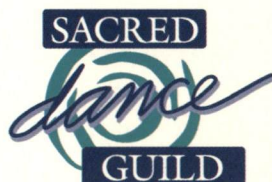
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Help us support you by supporting us through advertising in our Journal, our Festival Program, our Festival and SDGO Concert Programs, and our online SDG Business Directory.

Check us out on our web site:
www.sacreddanceguild.org



RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING

And We Have Danced Volume III. This third volume would certainly be great not only for our members but for those interested in sacred dance. (Cost \$15 including postage and handling). Order from Toni' Intravaia, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

A Practical Guide to Dancing in Worship by Deana Bess Sherman M.A. This volume shows that liturgical dance is the practice of sacred dance within the context of liturgical worship. Send your order with a check or money order (\$12 per book and \$3 shipping) to Deana Sherman, P.O. Box 119, North Aurora, Illinois 60542.

Dance - The Sacred Art: The Joy of Movement as a Spiritual Practice by Cynthia Winton-Henry, published by Skylight Paths Publishing. Cynthia draws on her long experience as a dancer, theologian, writer and artist, to point out how we can have profound experiences through simple forms of movement, regardless of our level of comfort or ability. This book can be ordered on the Inter-Play website www.interplay.org.

Dancing the Deep Hum by Connie Pwll Walck Tyler published by Deep Hum Productions, Berkeley, California. This is one woman's idea about how to live in a dancing, singing universe!

WANTED:

**Pictures of you and/or your Dance Group/
Troupe dancing the sacred.**

**Send who, what, when and where to
Pres@sacreddanceguild.org.**

WANTED: SDG VOLUNTEERS

To fundraise, to research, to coordinate programs, and lots more... Your Board of Director's invites you to consider becoming our Secretary/Treasurer, a Resources CoDirector, a Programs CoDirector, or a Development CoDirector. Contact VP@sacreddanceguild.org



"Simply Soaring"

Festival 2010 Registration Form

Registration fees include all classes and activities

Full Name

Address

City

State/Prov

Code

Country

Phone

e-mail

Festival Registration – Full Package includes ALL events

By May 15	After May 15	Amount
\$390	\$440	_____
\$440	\$490	_____
\$105	\$115	_____
\$115	\$125	_____

Full Package – SDG Member/Affiliate/Youth
Full Package – SDG Non Member
Day Rate – Member/Affiliate/Youth – Circle Day(s) T W T F
Day Rate – Non Member – Circle Day(s) T W T F

Tickets – Events only (for guests & Day Participants)

Banquet Ticket (Wednesday)	\$ 40	_____
Flash Dance Event (Thursday) – incl. in Thurs. Day rate	\$ 10	_____
Faculty Concert & Reception (Friday)	\$ 15	_____

Jacob's Pillow Excursion

See details on Web Site – Saturday, July 31	\$125	_____
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Room & Board at Connecticut College

Full Package	\$350	_____
5 night's accommodation – Mon - Fri		
Meals – Mon dinner, all meals Tues, Wed,		
Thurs, Fri, Breakfast on Saturday		
Note: Most rooms single. Limited number of doubles.		
If double required (couple, children, etc.) indicate		
below & identify roommate. Roommate to complete		
separate application.		
Require double <input type="checkbox"/>		
Roommate Name: _____		

Meal Package Only (Adults) \$120 _____

Meal Package Only (Children – to age 12) \$ 70 _____

(if bringing children contact Wendy Morrell for details on accommodation options)

TOTAL DUE:

Payable in US funds by check (drawn on US bank) made out to **Sacred Dance Guild** or charged to Visa or MasterCard

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

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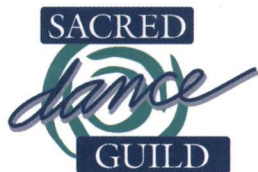
Cancellation Policy - Full refunds available until April 15th. \$75 cancellation fee charged after that time. No refunds after June 25, 2010. Tuition, room & board are transferable.

For questions about Festival registration, the optional Pillow Excursion or bringing children or guests contact:

Wendy Morrell
2931 Ahearn Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario CANADA K2B 7A2
613-726-1375
SDGFestival@sacreddanceguild.org

Send completed Registration Form to:

Sacred Dance Guild
550M Ritchie Highway, #271
Severna Park, MD 21146



550M Ritchie Highway, #271
Severna Park, MD 21146

Calendar

■ July 18, 2010

Mendocino Sufi camp *"Let the Beauty We Love Be What We Do,"*
Golden Gate Sufi Circle, Sebastopol, California, 95473
Contact: Call 707.823.9264 or mendocamp@GoldenGateSufi.org

■ July 26 - 31, 2010

"Simply Soaring," a Sacred Dance Guild Festival
Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut
Contact: Sacred Dance Guild at www.sacreddanceguild.org

■ August 16 - 22, 2010

Merkavat Ha-Makhol Institute for Embodied Spirituality, Elat Chayyion Center for Jewish Spirituality
at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center outside Falls Village, Connecticut
with Simona Aronow, Rabbi Diane Elliot, Latifa Kropf and Julie Leavitt.
Contact: www.isabellafreedman.org or call 860.824.5991

